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032404

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
REQUEST FOR FILING APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)  
**WITHOUT FILING FEE AND/OR WITHOUT EXECUTED INVENTOR'S DECLARATION**

16018 U.S. PTO  
10/807498  
032404

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Atty. Dkt. 550-541

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

Date: March 24, 2004

This is a request for filing a new PATENT APPLICATION under Rule 53(b) entitled:

**NULL EXCEPTION HANDLING**

without a filing fee and/or without an executed inventor's oath/declaration.

This application is made by the below identified inventor(s). Attached hereto are the following papers:

- ☐ Newly executed Declaration, ☐ Copy of Declaration from prior application, ☒ Abstract  
☐ Please **delete** the following inventors in the continuation/division/continuation-in-part application:

**Deleted persons:**

- 21 pages of specification and claims (including 63 numbered claims), and  
5 sheets of accompanying drawing/s for Figures 1 - 5.

- ☐ Attached is a Power of Attorney.  
☐ Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

| Application Number | Country | Day/Month/Year Filed |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------|
|--------------------|---------|----------------------|

- ☐ , respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..
- ☐ Certified copy(ies) of foreign application(s) is/are attached.
- ☐ Certified copy(ies) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ in prior application no. \_\_\_\_\_ filed \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.
- ☐ This application is a ☐ continuation/☐ division/☐ continuation-in-part of Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.
- ☐ Petition filed in prior application to extend its life to insure co-pendency.
- ☐ The prior application is assigned to \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the above parent application(s) by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A listing of that art is attached, but pursuant to Rule 98(d) copies are not required.
- ☐ Applicant claims "small entity" status. ☐ "Small entity" statement attached.
- ☐ Please enter the attached preliminary amendment **prior** to calculation of filing fee:

- ☒ Also attached: ☒ Information Disclosure Statement; ☐ Non-Publication Request; ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission; ☐ Statement deleting Inventor(s) named in prior application; ☒ Other: PTO Forms 1449 and Cited References

- |    |                   |   |                 |         |                |
|----|-------------------|---|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| 1. | Inventor:         | David   | John            | BUTCHER | British        |
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- ☒ **See attached sheet(s) for additional inventor(s) information!!**

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NOTE: FOR ADDITIONAL INVENTORS, check box ☐ and attach sheet with same information and signature and date for each.